



# Biodefense Knowledge Center

## DHS UNIVERSITY CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE THAT COLLABORATE WITH THE BIODEFENSE KNOWLEDGE CENTER

### **National Center for Food Protection and Defense**

The National Center for Food Protection and Defense aims to protect the safety of the nation's food system through research and education.

Based at the University of Minnesota, the center works with the Department of Homeland Security, as well as the public and private sectors, to protect the food supply by reducing the likelihood of a terrorist attack. If an intentional attack occurs, the center also seeks to develop knowledge to respond and reduce the consequences of such an attack. The center's efforts span the entire food supply chain – from agricultural production all the way through to the consumer. Research ranges from information management and modeling to economic assessment to diagnostic molecular biology and decontamination methods to public health responses and risk communication.

The National Center for Food Protection and Defense's other partners include the University of Wisconsin (Madison), Michigan State University, North Dakota State University and the Georgia Institute of Technology. The center also includes researchers from 11 other institutions and several private companies and professional associations.

Dr. Francis Busta, emeritus professor of food microbiology at the University of Minnesota, is the center's director.

### **National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense**

The National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense seeks to protect, prevent, intervene and recover from foreign animal and zoonotic disease introduced into U.S. livestock.

With Texas A&M University as the lead institution, the center will develop vaccines and diagnostics, conduct threat and vulnerability analyses, and contribute to training a new generation of scientists and industry-based operators involved in homeland security. The center, which will particularly work to fight agricultural bioterrorism, will collaborate with national and federal laboratories to meet its goals and objectives.

Other partners of The National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense, which was established by the Department of Homeland Security, are: the University of Southern California, the University of California, Davis and the University of Texas Medical Branch.

Dr. Neville Clarke, professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University, is the center's director.

## **Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events**

The Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events (CREATE) aims to improve the nation's security through developing and applying tools to assess the risk and consequences of terrorism.

Based at the University of Southern California, the center aims to accomplish its mission through an integrated program of research, education and outreach that is designed to inform and support decisions made by elected officials and governmental employees at the national, state and local levels. CREATE is developing computer models to analyze the risks, consequences, emergency response and economics of terrorism. The center's models are used to evaluate a wide range of threats to optimize the nation's investments in counterterrorism.

Other partners of the Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events are the University of Wisconsin (Madison) and New York University.

Dr. Randolph Hall, professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering, and Dr. Detlof von Winterfeldt, professor of Policy Planning and Development, are co-directors of the center.